

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the Title as follows:

METHOD AND KITS FOR MONITORING WOMEN'S HEALTH FERTILITY BY
MEASURING THE CONCENTRATION OF HORMONES IN TEARS

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 as follows:

This application claims the benefit under 35 USC § 119 (e) of United States provisional application number 60/454,177 filed on ~~filed~~ March 13, 2003, incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please add, immediately after line 1 on page 5 and before the section header "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS," the following paragraphs as follows:

FIG. 2 illustrate schematically a strip according to a preferred embodiment of the invention: A, a schematic side view of a strip; and B, top view of the strip.

FIG. 3 schematically illustrates a sectional view of a contact lens according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Please amend the third full paragraph on page 8 as follows:

A contact lens having a core material and an LbL coating, which comprises at least one layer of a charged polymeric material and one layer of a non-charged polymeric material that can be non-covalently bonded to the charged polymeric material, can be prepared according to a method disclosed in a commonly owned U.S. Patent No. 6,926,965 ~~co-~~
~~pending U.S. application, U.S. Ser. No. 60/409,950, entitled "LbL COATED MEDICAL~~
~~DEVICE AND METHOD FOR MAKING THE SAME", filed on September 11, 2002, herein~~
incorporated by reference.

Please amend the last paragraph on page 13 as follows:

In accordance with the present invention, a hydrogel strip as a tear-collecting device is one disclosed in a copending published U.S. patent application Ser. No. 2004/0076547 A1
~~60/415,914, entitled "Methods and Kits For Assays Of Analytes Of Interest In Tears", filed on~~

~~October 3, 2002~~, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. The hydrogel strip is made of a hydrogel material in substantially dry state and has a uniform cross-section, wherein said strip is characterized by having a substantially uniform swelling along the hydrogel strip when fully wicked by a tear fluid and characterized by having a defined correlation between the volume of tear uptake by said strip and the length of the tear-wicked end portion of said strip.

Please amend the fourth paragraph on page 15 as follows:

For example, a hydrogel strip is prepared from poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA) and has a dimension of 1.5 mm in width, 1.0 mm in height, and 30 mm in length. A hydrogel strip according to a preferred embodiment of the invention is schematically shown in Figure 1. In this preferred embodiment, the cross-section of the hydrogel strip is rectangular and the hydrogel strip has a dimension of 1.5 mm in width, 1.0 mm in height, and 30 mm in length. Scales of tear uptake and serum uptake by the strip are marked respectively on the top and side of the strip.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 16 as follows:

Preferably, a contact lens as a tear-collecting device is capable of binding the analyte of interest. Examples of such contact lenses are disclosed in a copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/797,707, entitled "DEVICES FOR COLLECTING ANALYTES OF INTEREST IN TEARS", filed on the same date herewith this application, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. In accordance with this embodiment, a contact lens comprises: (1) surface charges present in a density sufficient to impart to the contact lens an increased adsorption of the analyte of interest; (2) a coating comprising a receptor which binds specifically the analyte of interest; (3) molecular imprints for the analyte of interest; or (4) a core material that is prepared from a composition containing a receptor which binds specifically the analyte of interest. By wearing a contact lens capable of binding one or more analytes of interest, over a period of time, for example, 15 minutes or longer, preferably one hour or longer, more preferably 2 hours or longer, even more preferably 4 hours or longer, most preferably 8 hours or longer, the one or more analytes of interest can be enriched over the period of wearing time, since the tear fluid in a normal human eye is continuously replenished. By using a contact lens capable of binding an analyte of interest in a tear fluid, one can determine the concentration of an analyte of interest accumulated over a period of time and therefore the effects of biological concentration variability on the determined

concentration of the one or more analytes of interest can be minimized. Therefore, the accuracy of assays for the analytes in a body fluid can be greatly enhanced.

Please amend the third full paragraph on page 23 as follows:

A receptor can be encapsulated in a vesicle with surfaces charges, which in turn is used to prepare an LbL coating on a contact lens, as described in a co-pending US patent application publication No. 2003/0219909 A1-60/364,192, filed on March 13, 2002, entitled "Materials Containing Multiple Layers of Vesicles", herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. In accordance with the present invention, vesicles include polymerized liposomes, polymerized micelles, and nanocapsules or microcapsules each having a multilayered shell of polyelectrolytes. A person skilled in the art will know how to prepare vesicles with receptor encapsulated therein.

Please amend the paragraph bridging page 23 and page 24 as follows:

As shown in FIG. 3, a contact lens 1 having a concave surface 11 and a convex surface 12, which comprises molecular imprints 105 for the analyte of interest, can be, for example, made from a polymerizable composition comprising an analyte of interest. After curing the polymerizable composition, the analyte of interest can be extracted to provide molecular imprints for the analyte of interest in the contact lens.